Attorney Docket No.: 40101/09501 (2004.005)

REMARKS

I.   INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 19, 24 and 25 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-16 and 18-25 remain pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

II.   CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-8, 11, 19, 20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0018683 A1 to Zhao et al. (hereinafter "Zhao") in view of U.S. Patent 6865611 B1 to Bragg (hereinafter "Bragg"). (See 12/11/07 Office Action, p. 2.)

Zhao describes a system and method for compressing and storing binary IP addresses in memory. (See Zhao, Abstract.) A common number of trailing zero bytes is removed from the end of each of a group of uncompressed binary IP addresses. (See id., ¶ [0050].) The number of trailing zero bytes to be removed is selected as the number of trailing zero bytes that each of the IP addresses has in common. (See id., ¶ [0050].)

Bragg discloses a system, method and apparatus for transmitting IP address prefixes through an Internet Protocol network having a hierarchically arranged addressing scheme. (See Bragg, Abstract; Col. 1, ll. 6-10.) The system in Bragg further discloses identifying and removing a longest chain of zero bytes from an uncompressed IPv6 address to form a compressed IPv6 address. (See id., Col. 7, ll. 54-Col. 8, ll. 8; Table 1)

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Claim 1, as amended, recites, "[a] method, comprising: identifying a longest chain of zero bytes in an uncompressed IPv6 address, the chain of zero bytes having a chain length and a chain location, generating a compressed IPv6 address corresponding to the uncompressed IPv6 address by removing the chain of zero bytes from the uncompressed IPv6 address and providing compression information for the compressed IPv6 address, the compression information corresponding to the chain length and the chain location, *the compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*."

Zhao discloses providing additional information over and above the compressed address. However, in doing so Zhao limits itself to providing this additional information in separate fields apart from the compressed addresses to which the additional information pertains. (See Zhao, ¶ [0045]; Fig. 3.) Zhao provides that the compressed addresses will be stored in field 50 of a data structure, while the leading bits will be stored in field 30 and the trailing zeros will be stored in field 40 of that data structure. (See id.) This separation of the additional information from the compressed addresses precludes a finding that Zhao teaches compression information that is included *in* the compressed IPv6 addresses.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Zhao nor Bragg, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "[a] method comprising...providing compression information"... "*the compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*", as recited, in relevant portion, in claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claims 2-5 depend from, and therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 6, as amended, recites, in relevant portion, "[a] method," ...wherein the compressed IPv6 address is compressed by removing a longest chain of zero bytes from the uncompressed IPv6 address *and including the compression information in the compressed IPv6*

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address". Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is also allowable.

Claim 7, as amended, recites, in relevant portion, "[a] method, comprising determining a chain location and chain length of a chain of zero bytes removed from a compressed IPv6 address based on compression information of the compressed IPv6 address, *the compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*...." Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 7 is also allowable. Because claims 8 and 11 depend from, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 19 and 24, as amended, recite, in relevant portion, "[a] method... wherein the compressed IPv6 address is compressed by removal of a longest chain of zero bytes from an uncompressed version of the compressed IPv6 address, and providing compression information for the compressed IPv6 address, the compression information corresponding to the chain length and the chain location, *the compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*." Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, claims 19 and 24 are also allowable. Because claims 20, 22 and 23 depend from, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 9, 10, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Bragg and in further view of US Patent Pub. 2003/0193956 A1 to Dietrich (hereinafter "Dietrich"). (See 12/11/07 Office Action, p. 9.) However, because claims 9 and 10 depend from, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 7, and because neither Bragg nor Dietrich cure the deficiencies of Zhao with respect to claim 7, applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 and 10 are allowable. Because claim 21 depends from, and therefore includes all of

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the limitations of claim 19, and because neither Bragg nor Dietrich cure the deficiencies of Zhao with respect to claim 19, applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is also allowable.

Claims 16, 18 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Bragg and in further view of US Patent Pub. 2004/0264465 A1 to Dunk (hereinafter "Dunk"). (See 12/11/07 Office Action, p. 10.)

Claims 16 and 25, as amended, recite, in relevant portion, "...generating the corresponding compressed IPv6 address by removing the chain of zero bytes from the uncompressed IPv6 address and providing compression information for the compressed IPv6 address, the compression information corresponding to the chain length and the chain location, the *compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*". Applicant respectfully submits that neither Zhao, Bragg nor Dunk, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "...generating [a] corresponding compressed IPv6 address"...with "*the compression information being included in the compressed IPv6 address*", as recited, in relevant portion, in claims 16 and 25. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claim 18 depends from, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 16, applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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